



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MP

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/519,206	03/06/2000	Derek Hoeim	777.369US1	8410
41505	7590	04/06/2007	EXAMINER	
WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP (MICROSOFT CORPORATION)			TRAN, MYLINH T	
CIRA CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR			ART UNIT	
2929 ARCH STREET			PAPER NUMBER	
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-2891			2179	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/06/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/519,206	HOEIM ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mylinh Tran	2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 January 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,6-8,24 and 29-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1, 6-8, 24, 29-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's request for reconsideration filed 01/19/07 has been entered and carefully considered. However, arguments regarding rejections under 35.U.S.C 103 to claims 1, 6-8, 24 and 29-31 have not been found to be persuasive. Therefore, these claims are rejected under the same ground of rejection as set forth in the Office Action mailed 10/20/06.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 6-8, 24 and 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koppolu (US. 5,706,458).

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary.

Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

As to claims 1 and 24, Koppolu discloses teaches a computer implemented method and corresponding apparatus for a unified user interface for an application comprising the steps/means for one or more component tables (commands that map to keystrokes, figure 1 , 112, underlined W of WordPerfect Help, underlined T of Technical Microsoft Word), wherein each component table corresponds to a component of the application (the commands under Help menu correspond to components of the application), each component table includes at least one command for the corresponding component (at least one command "Technical Support" is included in "Help" component table), and each component table includes a description for adding the command to the user interface (figure 22, column 14, line 4 through column 16, line 10); wherein each command has an associated priority (column 14, line 65 through column 15, line 5, each command has its priority based on the Count Array at figure 10); a master table merged from the one or more component tables, said master table includes available command and available command vectors for the application (the commands under Help menu correspond to components of the application), each command and command vector having a unique object identifier and a flag specifying visibility, and said master table comprising commands that map to keystrokes (figure 11, each menu table (1104, 1106) comprises a list of commands that map to keystrokes. Therefore, the merged

menu list comprises a merged "commands that map to key strokes" list as well as the master table).

Koppolu fails to clearly teach each command and command vector having a unique object identifier. However, it was well known in the computer art that Koppolu suggest the feature because each command "Technical Support" of the Word Processor and Graphic programs has a unique object identifier in order to get the desired "Technical Support" command when the user requests.

Koppolu fails to clearly teach each command and command vector having a flag specifying visibility. However, it was well known in the computer art that Koppolu suggests the feature. In the Koppolu's system, the selected commands (under File menu) are displayed in black color, while other commands are displayed in gray color. The flags specify visibility or invisibility of their commands.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the well known implementation that each command having a flag specifying visibility with the teachings of Koppolu. Motivation of the combination would have been to identify user available property selected.

As to claims 6 and 29, Koppolu also discloses an additional component table and wherein the master table is merged from the at least one component table and the additional component table (the master table merges container menus

with sever menus, column 5, lines 1-24, figure 11 , each menu table (1104, 1106) comprises a list of commands that map to keystrokes. Therefore, the merged menu list comprises a merged "commands that map to key strokes" list as well as the master table).

As to claims 7 and 30, Koppolu teaches a removed component table of the at least one component table corresponding to a removed component and wherein the master table is merged from the remaining component tables of the at least one component table. It was inherent that the master table merges only "commands that map to the keystrokes" tables when server menu table of "commands that map to the keystrokes" is removed from a list.

As to claims 8 and 31, Koppolu also teaches the master table including available commands ("Quick Preview", "WordPerfect Help", "Technical Support" and "About Microsoft Word"), menus and toolbars and the location of each available command (figure 1).

Response to Arguments

Applicant has argued that Koppolu fails to teach each command and command vector having a unique object identifier and a flag specifying visibility. However, the Examiner respectfully disagrees because the Koppolu's system shows the selected commands (under File menu) are displayed in black color, while other commands are displayed in gray color. That means any commands

being displayed in black color are enabled for user's selection; and any commands being displayed in gray color are disabled for user's selection. The flags specify visibility of the commands by black color while the flags specify invisibility of the commands in gray color. This feature is defined at the specification as "Commands include a flag indicating their status as to whether they are enabled or disabled".

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mylinh Tran. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thu from 7:00AM to 3:00PM at 571-272-4141 . If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the

examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo, can be reached at 571-272-4847.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

571-273-8300

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mylinh Tran

Art Unit 2179



WEILUN LO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER